

**POLICY**

It is the policy of the Michigan Department of Human Services Bureau of Juvenile Justice (BJJ) to provide treatment and services to those youths within its care and custody that are structured to meet their gender-specific needs and differences.

**PURPOSE**

This policy ensures youths are provided treatment services that address the unique and different ways that females and males respond and interact socially, emotionally, psychologically, academically, physically, and nutritionally.

**DEFINITIONS**

See JRG, JJ Residential Glossary.

**RESPONSIBLE  
STAFF**

Designated in the facility standard operating procedure.

**PROCEDURE**

Each facility is required to develop and implement standard operating procedures (SOPs) pertaining to the implementation of gender-responsive treatment. At a minimum, these SOPs must contain the following requirements:

- The gender of the youth population is considered in terms of program design and determining the treatment and services that are provided to youths.
- The facility/center director or designee ensures that a range of documented, evidence-based, gender-responsive services and treatment are offered to youths that will better assist them in:
  - Developing strengths to face challenges.
  - Eliminating negative behaviors.
  - Developing skill competencies.
  - Developing effective problem-solving and decision-making skills.
  - Becoming assets to their communities upon release.

**Training Available  
to all Staff will**

Ensure awareness of gender differences.

Promote gender-responsive interactions with youths.

Reinforce gender-responsive intervention.

**AUTHORITY**

Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.115a(1)(l)